REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-12 were in the original application. Upon a Restriction Requirement, claims 5-8, 11 and 12 were elected for continued prosecution. Applicants have amended claims 7, 8 and 12 to specifically claim the elected cell line without prejudice or acquiescence. Applicants have included a marked up version of the claims as amended herein as Appendix A. For the convenience of the Examiner, Applicants have included in Appendix B a copy of all pending claims as amended herein. Applicants assert that no new matter has been added.

CONCLUSION

Applicants have amended claims 7, 8 and 12 to clarify the claims to the elected cell line. Therefore, these amendments do not narrow the scope of the claims within the meaning of *Festo Corp. v. Shoketsu Kinzoku Kogyo Kabushiki Co., Ltd.*, 234 F.3d 558, 586, 56 USPQ2d 1865, 1886 (Fed. Cir. 2000).

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Appendix A

Version With Markings to Show Changes Made

7. (Amended) A non-transgenic mouse mammary adenocarcinoma cell line system for testing the activity of a hormone, an anti-hormone, a pharmacological compound and an environmental agent, wherein the system comprises a MC7-L1 cell line ~~selected from the group consisting of MC4-L1, MC4-L3, MC4-L2, and MC7-L1~~.

8. (Amended) An *in vitro* method for testing the activity of a hormone, an anti-hormone, a pharmacological compound or an environmental agent, comprising the steps of:

cultivating a cell line system, wherein the cell line system comprises

a MC7-L1 cell line derived from a murine progestin-independent C7-HI tumor, wherein the cell line expresses estrogen and progesterone receptors;

~~a MC4-L3 cell line derived from a murine progestin-dependent CC4-HD tumor, wherein the cell line expresses estrogen and progesterone receptors;~~

~~a MC4-L2 cell line derived by subcloning a MC4-L1 cell line; or,~~

~~a MC4-L1 cell line derived from a murine progestin-dependent CC4-HD tumor, wherein the cell line expresses estrogen and progesterone receptors.~~

exposing the cell line system to the hormone, the anti-hormone, the ~~pharmacologiacal~~ pharmacological compound, or the environmental agent; and

quantifying cell proliferation.

12. (Amended) The kit of claim 11, wherein the cell line is ~~selected from the group consisting of MC4-L1, MC4-L3, MC4-L2, or~~ MC7-L1.

Appendix B

Claims pending as of October 17, 2001

5. A non transgenic mouse mammary adenocarcinoma cell line derived from a murine progestin-independent C7-HI tumor, wherein the cell line expresses estrogen and progesterone receptors.

6. The non transgenic mouse mammary ademocarcimona cell line of claim 5, wherein the cell line is MC7-L1.

7. A non-transgenic mouse mammary adenocarcinoma cell line system for testing the activity of a hormone, an anti-hormone, a pharmacological compound and an environmental agent, wherein the system comprises a MC7-L1 cell line.

8. An *in vitro* method for testing the activity of a hormone, an anti-hormone, a pharmacological compound or an environmental agent, comprising the steps of:

cultivating a cell line system, wherein the cell line system comprises

a MC7-L1 cell line derived from a murine progestin-independent C7-HI tumor, wherein the cell line expresses estrogen and progesterone receptors;

exposing the cell line system to the hormone, the anti-hormone, the pharmacological compound, or the environmental agent; and

quantifying cell proliferation.

11. A kit for determining the effect of a hormone, anti-hormone, pharmacological compounds and environmental agents, wherein the kit comprises an aliquot, a cell line, and a method for evaluating the proliferation of cells.

12. The kit of claim 11, wherein the cell line is MC7-L1.